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Three arrested in home invasion, slaying

By Deanna Boyd
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FORT WORTH - Police arrested two men and a woman Friday morning in the home-invasion robbery and fatal shooting of a Fort Worth man Thursday morning.

Antonio Lemont Hampton, 22, Richard Mathis, 20, and Ellien Lewis, 27, were arrested about 3 a.m. in the slaying of Roney Gibson, 44, at Gibson's home in the 2100 block of Bethune Street.

They face capital murder charges, and all remained in the Mansfield Jail with bail set at \$500,000 each.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, a witness told police that she, Gibson and others were at a residence in the 5100 block of Elgin Street early Thursday when Gibson left.

About five minutes later, a man knocked on the door and asked where he could get some drugs.

The woman said the occupants of the home told the man he could find some at a residence up the street, according to the affidavit.

The woman told police the man then pulled a revolver and told everyone to get on the floor. She said two other men, one armed with a rifle, then came into the house and began hitting two of the occupants.

The men stole money from some of the occupants, then asked where the man who had left the house had gone. When told the man had gone to his nearby home on the street corner, the men ordered the woman to go with them to Gibson's home, the affidavit stated.

At Gibson's home, the woman was ordered to knock on the door, she told police.

When Gibson answered, the woman and three men entered the home, and Gibson began to fight with two of the men, the woman told police.

During the struggle, Gibson was hit in the head with a metal object and then shot multiple times, the woman said.

The men then fled in a maroon car, leaving the woman behind, the affidavit stated.

Homicide Sgt. J.D. Thornton said the break in the case came as homicide detectives were investigating a lead in the Caville apartments.

"We interviewed numerous people in regards to trying to identify the suspect," Thornton said. "From those interviews, we received a nickname for a possible suspect."

Thornton said that through the nickname, investigators were able to identify one of the suspects as Mathis.

Thornton said patrol officers and members of the U.S. Marshal's task force set up surveillance of the Butler housing complex, where Mathis lives, and observed Mathis and others transferring items from a maroon Caprice into a blue Oldsmobile Cutlass.

Hours later, at about 3 a.m. Friday, officers stopped the blue Cutlass as it left the Butler complex.

Mathis was arrested on a capital murder warrant. Hampton and Lewis were arrested on outstanding traffic warrants.

Thornton said police later obtained capital murder warrants for Hampton and Lewis as well.

Thornton said police believe Lewis drove the Caprice during the robberies and shooting. Police are seeking another man, Thornton said.

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